

Abstract

A hydrophilic member is provided wherein the restoration of hydrophilic properties after washing occurs in an extremely short amount of time, yet the retention effect of the

5 recovered hydrophilic properties is high. On the surface of glass plate, which is used as a substrate, is formed a tin oxide (SnO_2) film, and on the surface of this tin oxide (SnO_2) film is formed, as an overcoat layer, a silicon oxide (SiO_2) film. Soda glass which has SiO_2 as its main component is used as the glass plate. The tin oxide (SnO_2) film is formed, for example, by the chemical vapor deposition method, the thickness of the film being from 10 to 800 nm and the mean surface roughness (R_a) of the surface being from 0.5 through 25nm. Furthermore, the silicon oxide (SiO_2) film is formed by the sputtering method, the thickness being from 0.1 to 100 nm. Moreover, since the silicon oxide (SiO_2) film is formed on the tin oxide (SnO_2) film, the irregularities of the tin oxide film (SnO_2) are transferred just as they are, which makes the silicon oxide (SiO_2) film have a corresponding mean surface roughness (R_a) of from 0.5 through 25 nm.